

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAD-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12

HA-05 MCT-01 SSM-03 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /116 W

-----126551 020103Z /70

O 020054Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1090

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MARR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: SECURITY COUNCIL

CONSULTATIONS ON UNIFIL ENLARGEMENT

1. SUMMARY: SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT (VENEZUELA)

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HAS CALLED FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF SECURITY

COUNCIL ON MAY 2 AT 3:30 P.M. TO TAKE UP SYG'S LETTER

REQUESTING ENLARGEMENT OF UNIFIL. LEBANESE MISSION

INFORMED US THAT IT PREFERS NO FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING

AND THAT PLO OBSERVER TOLD AMBASSADOR TUENI THAT PLO

WILL PASS ON TO SOVIETS THAT PLO DOES NOT OBJECT TO

UNIFIL INCREASE. UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE

ARRIVED IN NEW YORK LATE MAY 1 FOR 2/3 DAYS CONSULTATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT CAPRIO-CASTILLO (VENEZUELA) INFORMED SC MEMBERS LATE MAY 1 THAT COUNCIL WILL HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT 3:30 P.M. ON MAY 2 TO DISCUSS SYG WALDHEIM'S LETTER REQUESTING ENLARGEMENT OF UNIFIL "TO THE LEVEL OF ABOUT 6,000" MEN. LEBANESE PERM REP TUENI MET WITH KEY ARAB AMBASSADORS AND SEVERAL SC MEMBERS EARLIER ON MAY 1. HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE A FORMAL SC MEETING MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE BUT WOULD PREFER THE COUNCIL TO AGREE TO INCREASE THROUGH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. FALLBACK SCENARIO ACCORDING TO LEBANESE MISSION WOULD BE SC MEETING AT WHICH ONLY SC MEMBERS WOULD SPEAK AND WHICH WOULD CONCLUDE WITH PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. WE HAVE IMPRESSED ON LEBANESE MISSION THE DISADVANTAGES WE SEE IN A FORMAL MEETING -- POTENTIAL FOR VITUPERATIVE POLITICAL SPEECHES AND RISK OF POSSIBLE SC RESOLUTION, POSSIBLY INCLUDING PROVISION ON WITHDRAWAL.

3. LEBANESE MISSION TOLD US THAT TUENI IN VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH KEY ARABS ENCOUNTERED NO ARAB OBJECTION TO INCREASE. MOREOVER PLO OBSERVER TERZI REPORTEDLY AGREED NOT TO OBJECT AND FURTHER SAID HE WOULD INFORM SOVIETS OF PLO POSITION.
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4. WALDHEIM'S LETTER IN SUMMARY: SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE HAVE INFORMED WALDHEIM THAT IN VIEW OF DIFFICULT CONDITIONS ON THE GROUND AND IN LIGHT OF THEIR EXPERIENCE THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF UNIFIL SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ABOUT 6,000. WALDHEIM CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO INCREASE TO THIS LEVEL FOR PRESENT VERY CRUCIAL STAGE AND SO RECOMMENDS TO SC. FIJI, IRAN AND IRELAND HAVE ADVISED WALDHEIM THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A BATTALION EACH FOR SERVICE WITH UNIFIL. WALDHEIM INTENDS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL CONTINGENTS FROM THESE GOVERNMENTS IF SC AGREES TO PROPOSED INCREASE.

5. UN SECRETARIAT CONFIRMED THAT GENERAL ERSKINE WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK LATE ON MAY 1 AND ENTER CONSULTATIONS IMMEDIATELY WITH THE SYG. ACCORDING TO UN SECRETARIAT ERSKINE PLANS TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK FOR 2-3 DAYS TO DISCUSS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS WITH UNNY AND TO SERVE IN "HELPFUL ROLE" DURING SC CONSIDERATION OF UNIFIL ENLARGEMENT.

6. SUBSEQUENT TO ABOVE, LEBANESE MISSION TOLD US
OF MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TUENI AND SOVIET PERM
REP TROYANOVSKY. TUENI TOLD TROYANOVSKY THAT PLO
WAS NOT OPPOSED TO UNIFIL INCREASE AND THAT ARABS
AND NONALIGNED SC MEMBERS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SC
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT A FORMAL MEETING IN
RESPONSE TO SYG'S REQUEST FOR ENLARGEMENT. TROYANOVSKY
POSED VARIOUS QUESTIONS AND ASKED FOR 24-48 HOUR DELAY
BEFORE GIVING HIS REPLY. YOUNG

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